

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 662

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act relating to fulfillment by elderly persons of the requirements for naturalization.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act relating to fulfillment by elderly persons of the requirements for naturalization.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Naturalization of Older
5 Persons Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The Immigration and Nationality Technical
2 Corrections Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–416) pro-
3 vides that a permanent resident who wishes to be-
4 come a United States citizen may take the required
5 test on the history, principles, and form of govern-
6 ment of the United States in a language other than
7 English if the person either is over 50 and has lived
8 legally in the United States for at least 20 years or
9 is over 55 and has lived legally in the United States
10 for at least 15 years.

11 (2) Many aged permanent residents are not
12 able to pass the required citizenship test in English.

13 **SEC. 3. FULFILLMENT BY ELDERLY PERSONS OF REQUIRE-**
14 **MENTS FOR NATURALIZATION RELATING TO**
15 **KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNITED STATES.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 312(b) of the Immigra-
17 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1423(b)) is amended
18 by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

19 “(4)(A) The requirement of subsection (a)(2) shall
20 not apply to any person who, on the date of the filing of
21 the person’s application for naturalization as provided in
22 section 334, is over 64 years of age and has been living
23 in the United States for periods totaling at least 5 years
24 subsequent to a lawful admission for permanent residence.

1 “(B) The requirement of subsection (a)(2) may be
2 fulfilled through an examination in a language other than
3 English with respect to any person who, on the date of
4 the filing of the person’s application for naturalization as
5 provided in section 334, is at least 60 years of age and
6 has been living in the United States for periods totaling
7 at least 5 years subsequent to a lawful admission for per-
8 manent residence.”.

9 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
10 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enact-
11 ment of this Act and shall apply to applications for natu-
12 ralization pending on or after the date of enactment.

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